

~~SECRET~~

NSC BRIEFING

20 Jan [redacted]

LATE NEWS - COSTA RICA

I. Possible new oil on dying fire of [redacted]

Rica rebellion provided by Nicaragu-
dictator Somoza's threat (19 Jan) rei-
tion for alleged "violation" of border
by US-supplied P-51's.

A. Planes have been striking at sole re-
maining rebel concentration, in
extreme northwest corner Costa Rica,
along border. Thus, technical viola-
tion Nicaraguan air-space quite
possible.

B. Somoza's violent reaction (threat to
mobilize army, order airforce into
action) out of all proportion to
incident. Can be attributed to his
"loss of face" from swift, effective
OAS action which not only frustrated
hopes for ousting his bitter enemy

[redacted]

Tigueres but also brought such personal embarrassment as being caught with "rebel" planes in Nicaragua, forced to "intern" them.

C. Probable that Somoza's threat will remain mere words, abortive rebellion will collapse.